

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03

H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 STR-08 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 121354

R 032319 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6773

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4809

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN SHORTAGES OF CORN AND SORGHUM

1. MY MEXICAN CONTACTS HAVE RECENTLY STRESSED THE SHORTAGE OF THE CORN CROP IN MEXICO THIS YEAR AS WELL AS THE DISASTROUS FLOODING IN THE NORTH WHICH HAS SERIOUSLY ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE SORGHUM CROP. IT HAS BEEN CLEARLY INDICATED THAT PURCHASES IN THE U. S. TO MAKE UP THE DEFICIT ARE ENVISAGED. AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IS INFORMED THAT CONASUPO ALREADY HAS SOMEONE IN WASHINGTON AT THE MEXICAN EMBASSY WATCHING THE COMMODITY SITUATION CLOSELY.

2. I MERELY WISHED TO POINT OUT THAT THE QUESTION OF CORN SUPPLY IN MEXICO IS POLITICALLY HIGHLY SENSITIVE SINCE THIS IS BASE OF NATIONAL DIET. THEREFORE ANY ACTION BY UNITED STATES WHICH WOULD NOT PERMIT MEXICO TO PURCHASE CORN IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE A SERIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECT. SAME IS PROBABLY TRUE TO SOMEWHAT LESSER DEGREE IN CASE OF SORGHUM. IN ANY EVENT I WISHED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE WOULD HAVE POTENTIAL POLITICAL CRISIS ON OUR HANDS WHICH WOULD OF COURSE BE FANNED BY MEDIA IN CASE WE DID NOT MEET MEXICO' S CORN REQUIREMENTS. AS DEPARTMENT IS OF COURSE AWARE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN A TRADITIONAL SUPPLIER OF CORN TO MEXICO
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TO MEET HER SHORTFALLS AS THEY HAVE OCCURED.
MCBRIDE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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